



FMC Newsletter

2023

Greetings First Methodist Stanton Family!

We have now fully entered the Lenten season of the church. We marked the beginning of Lent with a wonderful turnout for the pancake dinner and Ash Wednesday service. The service was a time to remember and seek the gift of God's grace as we were reminded of our own mortal frailty and sin. It is my prayer that through this season of Lent, we seek to experience God's love and grace by opening our hearts and minds to Jesus Christ.

Looking Forward

In the coming weeks, the Administrative Council will be announcing two important dates for the congregation:

- 1) A Final Presentation on the potential landing spots for First Methodist Church
- 2) The date of the Church Conference to vote on the landing spot.

During the presentation, the Administrative Council will share brief summaries of the four possible landing spots for the church: 1) Global Methodist Church, 2) Collegiate Methodist Church, 3) The Wesleyan Church, 4) Independent. They will share the pros and cons of each option and how they each could/would affect the church. The Administrative Council and I continue to ask that our whole church continue to be in prayer for wisdom and discernment as we move closer to making the important decision of our connectional future.

I also want to leave you with a quick reminder of two important dates for worship:

- 1) Palm Sunday - April 2
- 2) Easter Sunday - April 9

The Season of Lent And Wesleyan Practical Theology

By Keith Turner, originally published online by [Seedbed](#)

In 1790, just one year before his death, John Wesley compiled what he titled *A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People Called Methodists*. While the poetry included in the hymnal is nothing short of a grandiose combination of beauty and rich theology, Wesley saw the collection as having a distinct purpose. He writes in the preface:

The [hymn-book] is large enough to contain all the important truths of our most holy religion, whether speculative or practical; yea, to illustrate them all, and to prove them both by Scripture and reason. . . . So that this book is in effect a little body of experimental and practical divinity.

In other words, for Wesley, the hymnal was a theology textbook! But unlike Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion or Luther's Small Catechism, Wesley saw

theology as not something meant to be kept in the likes of an ivory tower. Rather, the faith of the Church is meant to be lived out, both in corporate worship and in the everyday life of the believer. Perhaps this conviction is why William Williamson writes in his book, United Methodist Beliefs: A Brief Introduction, "John Wesley praised theology that was "practical," that is, belief put into practice, belief in motion. Doctrine ought to be performed as a sign of our faith in a Lord who invited and commanded, "Follow me."

Wesleyan theology in all its various expressions yet in its truest form holds in careful balance its inward and the outward—the internal and the external—components. It holds tremendous value in both the warmed heart and the strong social witness. Yet Wesley consistently feared the fires of the Methodist revival would eventually become cooled. Thus, Methodism would lose its fervor and join the ranks of any and every other institutional religious expression. The flame God's Spirit ignited was in danger of being extinguished by complacent religiosity. Such sentiments are identified in Wesley's Sermon 116, "Causes of the Inefficacy of Christianity." The sermon was delivered in Dublin in 1789. In it, Wesley asks:

Why then are not these altogether Christians, who have both Christian doctrine and Christian discipline, why is not the spiritual health of the people called Methodists recovered? Why is not all that "mind in us which was also in Christ Jesus?" Why have we not learned of him our very first lesson, to be meek and lowly of heart, to say with him, in all circumstances of life, "Not as I will, but as thou wilt. I come not to do my own will, but the will of him that sent me?" Why are we not "crucified to the world, and the world crucified to us," – dead to the "desire of the flesh, the desire of the eye, and the pride of life?" Why do not all of us live "the life that is hid with Christ in God?"

Undoubtedly, Wesley's words are timeless. The dangers over which he fretted still loom over those who would call themselves Methodist or Wesleyan today. He was consistent to distinguish between "real" and "formal" religion, or as he was wont to put it, "the power of God" versus the "form of godliness." While we may say we desire and pray for the real religion of the power of God, our personal lives and our churches often resemble the formalities of godliness yet denying God's power among us.

The season of Lent is a wonderful liturgical season to reverse these trends both in our individual lives and in our shared lives together. It is a season for Methodists and Wesleyans of all kinds to flex their practical divinity muscles. Lent is, in short, forty days of practical divinity, of putting our beliefs into motion! The practices of fasting, prayer, almsgiving, and study are the traditional Lenten disciplines. But Wesley required these disciplines for those who would call themselves Methodists.

So why then do we engage in these disciplines? The austerity of the season aside, Lent is not merely a season of deprivation. If we are only depriving ourselves of ~~some sort of good~~ for the sake of the season, we have missed the whole point. Giving up chocolate or alcohol will not intrinsically draw us closer to God. We are not talking about fool-proof guarantees! No, Lent is also a season of reception. We fast and pray so that we may receive what God desires to give us. We study so that we may learn

from Jesus as we follow him from the wilderness temptation to the cross to the Resurrection. We give of ourselves to others, because what we receive during Lent is not meant for us to keep. Indeed, the words of Jesus are true, "It is more blessed to give, than to receive. (Acts 20:35)"


The apostle Paul writes to the Corinthian Church, "Because we have [Christ's] promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God. (2 Corinthians 7:1, NLT)" The invitation Paul gives to the Corinthians is our invitation to the Lenten season. We, too, are called to allow the Holy Spirit to perform the cleansing work, removing all outward and inward sin. Such cleansing frees us to go on to complete holiness in the fear of God.

Wesleyan theology is a great gift to the greater Body of Christ, but we Wesleyans are called to make it practical, to put it into practice, and to set our beliefs into motion. Then, the world may very well catch a glimpse of the beauty of the Methodist/Wesleyan movement.

Therefore, the questions stand before us. How will you let the Holy Spirit guide you during this season of Lent? More importantly, how will you let him make your theology practical?

As we walk through another Lent, we do so discerning the will of God, following Jesus to the cross and the empty tomb, and availing ourselves to the presence and power of the Spirit. In doing so, we may see the fires of the Methodist revival be rekindled again.

God Bless,
Pastor Bobby



FUMC FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

ONLINE GIVING



INCOME SUMMARY

JAN 1ST-31ST:
\$187,375.41
FEB 1-23RD:
\$55,826.45
YTD: \$243,201.86

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

BUILDING FUND GOAL
\$3,500,000.00
CASH+PLEDGES RAISED
\$5,303,420.26
PLEDGES OUTSTANDING
\$299,250.00

March

Mark Your Calendar

3/12- Sunday Class Luncheon 12:00pm

3/12- *Daylight Savings*

3/15 - No Encounter (Spring Break)

3/17- St. Patrick's Day

3/21- AD Council 6:00pm

3/24-Office Closed (Admins Birthday!)

3/28-Finance Meeting 7:00pm

15th-17th Office Closed

Changes To Note



New Church Email:
fmcstanton@fmcstanton.com

New Website URL:
www.fmcstanton.com

Facebook URL:
www.facebook.com/FMCStanton

CHECK OUT OUR GROWING WEBSITE!

2023 FMC Nominations

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Chairperson Justin Burch

Vice-Chair Adam Evans

Lay Leader Wilma Stirl

SPRC Chair Leah Mitchell

Finance Chair Paul Evans

Trustee President TBD By Trustees

Lay Delegate Lester Baker

Worship Chair Mollie Madison

N.O.W. Chair Amanda Louder

N.O.W. Vice-Chair Martha Matthews

Pastor* Bobby Wilson

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

Chairperson Leah Mitchell

Lay Leader Wilma Stirl

Lay Delegate Lester Baker

At Large (2023) Wilma Stirl

At Large (2023) Eric Weaver

At Large (2024) Kelli Holland

At Large (2024) Leah Mitchell

At Large (2025) Rachel McKown

At Large (2025) April Evans

At Large (2025) Kayla Nichols

Ad. Council Chair* Justin Burch

Pastor* Bobby Wilson

FINANCE

Chairperson Paul Evans

Trustee Chair TBD By Trustees

SPRC Chair Leah Mitchell

Lay Leader Wilma Stirl

Lay Delegate Lester Baker

Ad. Council Chair Justin Burch

At Large (2023) Mike Waggoner

At Large (2024) Conner McKown

At Large (2025) Tyler Matthews

Financial Secretary* Briana Ellison

Treasurer* Briana Ellison

Pastor* Bobby Wilson



SAVE THE DATE

CAMP

CETA CANYON

JULY 10-14TH
YOUTH GROUP

Nova

[RISING 7TH GRADE-12TH GRADE]



CAMP BUTMAN
SAVE THE DATE
ELEVATE
ELEMENTARY
CAMP
JULY 10-14TH
RISING 4TH-6TH GRADE





VBS DATES
JUNE 19TH-22ND



OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEENS

Chrysalis Flights
Girs- June 15-18,2023
Boy- July 6-9,2023

What is a Chrysalis?

It is a 3 day journey full of prayer, worship, fellowship, and fun. During the 3 days, participants dive into how a relationship with Christ can influence their relationships with others. Real world experiences about growing closer to Christ are shared by youth, adults, and clergy. Participants will gain a fuller understanding of God's love in a fresh way.

For more information and registration forms go to hiskyemmaus.org/Chrysalis or talk to Dyan Hale 432-559-9598



Nursery

6 Weeks - 4 y/o

Contact Karyn Pylant

Kid's Club (Room 103)

4y/o - 2nd Grade

Contact Karyn Pylant

Children of God (Room 201)

3rd - 5th Grade

Contact Karyn Pylant

Youth (Room 204)

6th - 12th Grade

Contact Edward Alberts

Agape Class (Room 203)

Co-Ed Young & Middle Age Adults

Contact Kelli Holland

Parlor Class (Room 101)

Co-Ed Senior Adults

Contact Martha Matthews

The Francis Circle

Senior Women's Bible Study (Room 003)

Contact Francis Biggs

FOR MORE INFO, CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 432-756-2303



First United Methodist

Church Stanton

• Prayer List •

In our prayers



Fred Denison Sr. , Richard White, Sandy Pool

You can submit prayer request through www.stantonumc.com , call the church office at 432-756-2303, email briana@stantonumc.com, & Sunday worship services by prayer card